

The Environmental Protection Agency invites you to review and comment on the proposed partial deletion of Operable Unit 1 of the North Ridge Estates Superfund Site from the National Priorities List. The proposed Notice of Intent for Partial Deletion for Operable Unit 1 will explain why this area should be removed from the National Priorities List, a list of Superfund Sites in the United States that EPA prioritizes for cleanup due to known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants.

## Why Did EPA List North Ridge Estates as a Superfund Site?

The North Ridge Estates Superfund Site is a residential subdivision located three miles north of Klamath Falls, Oregon. Operable Unit 1 encompasses the footprint of a former Marine Recuperation Barracks and includes all areas where asbestos-containing materials and/or asbestos were observed or detected, but does not include the former firing range (Operable Unit 2). The site was contaminated with asbestos from the improper demolition of approximately 80 1940s-era military barracks buildings constructed, as was common at the time, with a variety of building materials which contained asbestos.

In 2003, residents noticed asbestos containing material surfacing in their yards. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) requested EPA support in assessing the properties. Due to the asbestos contamination, 18 families were relocated under a settlement agreement between the developer and the residents. The site was added to the National Priorities List in 2011 after EPA and ODEQ determined that annual efforts to remove contamination were not effective for long-term protection of human health.

## How did EPA Clean Up the Asbestos Containing Material at Operable Unit 1?

EPA issued a Record of Decision in 2011 outlining the final cleanup plan for the site, and made changes to the plan in a 2019 Explanation of Significant Differences. EPA excavated about 360,000 cubic yards of asbestos and asbestos contaminated soils across the 125-acre site from 2016 to 2018. Excavated asbestos and asbestos-contaminated soils were consolidated into two on-site repositories. Following the removal of the contaminated materials, EPA placed a two-foot protective cap over the site. The cleanup successfully restored the site to productive use as a residential neighborhood, protecting current and future residents from asbestos contamination.

## Why is EPA Proposing to Delete OU1 from the National Priorities List?

Based on the final site inspection in October 2020, EPA and ODEQ determined that the cleanup actions for Operable Unit 1 meet the cleanup requirements and are protective as outlined in the 2011 Record of Decision and as modified by the 2019 Explanation of Significant Differences.

## Is Operable Unit 2 also Proposed for Deletion?

Operable Unit 2, the firing range area, is not proposed for deletion at this time and will remain on the National Priorities List. Additional contamination at Operable Unit 2 is currently being investigated, and is anticipated to be addressed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and EPA by 2024.

## How Can I Submit Comments on this Proposed Partial Deletion?

Comments may be submitted by email to EPA's Remedial Project Manager, Linda Meyer ([meyer.linda@epa.gov](mailto:meyer.linda@epa.gov)), during the 30-day public comment period, which begins **May 14** and ends **June 14**. Comments must be received within the 30-day period to be considered by EPA in making a final decision on the proposed Notice of Intent for Partial Deletion. EPA will respond to each significant comment, and any significant new data, submitted during the comment period. EPA's responses will also be included in a Responsiveness Summary in the final Operable Unit 1 Site Partial Deletion Docket.

## How Can I View the Proposed Deletion Documents?

Supporting documents are available for review in the online Operable Unit 1 Site Partial Deletion Docket, available at <https://www.regulations.gov> and at EPA's web page for the North Ridge Estates Superfund site at <https://go.usa.gov/xsnMY>. Appendix B provides an index of the documents included in the site partial deletion docket.

### For More Information

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, access to the EPA Region 10 office is limited. Therefore, all comments on EPA's proposed Notice of Intent for Partial Deletion (by **June 14**) should be submitted by email to Linda Meyer ([meyer.linda@epa.gov](mailto:meyer.linda@epa.gov)).

#### On the Web:

Visit [www.epa.gov/superfund/north-ridge-estates](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/north-ridge-estates)

#### Who May I Contact if I Have More Questions?

For additional questions, please contact the following EPA staff:

- **Laura Knudsen**, Community Involvement Coordinator • 206-553-1838 • [knudsen.laura@epa.gov](mailto:knudsen.laura@epa.gov)
- **Linda Meyer**, Remedial Project Manager • 206-553-6636 • [meyer.linda@epa.gov](mailto:meyer.linda@epa.gov)

 TDD or TTY users, please call 800-877-8339 and give the operator Laura Knudsen's phone number.



Region 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155  
Mail Stop 12-D12  
Seattle, Washington 98101

May 2021

## ***Proposed Partial Deletion of North Ridge Estates Superfund Site from National Priorities List***